Further, to gear up the supply of above items, meetings with institutions all over India are being held and nodal agencies have been nominated to ensure timely supply to the different zonal Railway Headquarters. So far, KVIC has received from orders firm the following Regional Railway Headquarters:

(Qty. in Lakhs)

| SI. No. | Railways | Bed Sheet | Pillow Covers | Towels | Others |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Eastern Railway | 1.00 (Received on 22.6.2004) | 1.69 | 0.04 | |
| 2. | South Central Railway (Received on 9.7.2004) | 1.50 | 1.00 | 0.85 | 0.07 (Blankets) |

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As regards Khadi, KVIC is already supplying upholstery items to the Railways. The enhanced order from Railways will help in boosting the additional employment generation in Khadi sector and also in providing an assured market for the products. So fa[r] as village industries are concerned, there are KVIC units which produce kulhars and the supply of kulhars to Railways will help in generating additional employment opportunities and increasing the level of income of the artisans engaged in pottery.

(e) Does not arise.

**Export of coir products**

906. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increasing global demand for natural fibres;

(b) if so, the details of the coir products exported for the last three years and the foreign exchange earned for the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether the minimum export price for coir products is scrapped during the regime of the last Government;

(d) whether action would be taken to restore the minimum export price for coir products;

(e) if so, details thereof;

(f) if not, reasons therefor, and

(g) the total employees associated with coir industry, as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of coir and coir products exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise are given below:

(Quantity in Tonnes) (Value in Rs. Lakhs)

| Item | 2001-02 | | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Quantity | Value | Quantity | Value | Quantity | Value |
| Coir fibre | 1010.30 | 122.13 | 1036.87 | 103.80 | 1120.75 | 142.44 |
| Curled coir | 572.52 | 80.63 | 492.37 | 80.05 | 76.64 | 14.02 |
| Coir Pith | 13725.65 | 1014.34 | 21064.19 | 1493.00 | 29179.35 | 1975.92 |
| Coir rope | 348.64 | 108.04 | 332.40 | 102.05 | 308.88 | 111.46 |
| Coir yarn | 13206.90 | 3728.60 | 11482.48 | 2996.78 | 12364.43 | 3498.71 |
| Coir Geotextiles | 1752.05 | 780.13 | 2140.68 | 985.22 | 2599.54 | 1184.74 |
| Coir Rugs | 1329.97 | 1039.77 | 1327.08 | 932.41 | 1694.56 | 1071.36 |
| Handloom Mats | 26147.89 | 17009.85 | 33058.74 | 20711.80 | 36306.99 | 22133.69 |
| Handloom Mattings | 4423.27 | 2921.03 | 4772.63 | 3191.41 | 4545.56 | 2838.66 |
| Powerloom Mats | 686.51 | 458.19 | 954.85 | 585.52 | 1026.28 | 672.13 |
| Powerloom Mattings | 274.05 | 226.18 | 183.16 | 111.78 | 309.04 | 215.44 |
| Tufted Mats | 7129.54 | 4112.36 | 6429.05 | 3434.74 | 11772.50 | 6359.54 |
| Rubberised coir | 454.62 | 350.37 | 535.23 | 403.42 | 461.75 | 334.67 |
| Coir other sorts | 272.90 | 106.81 | 372.86 | 138.55 | 490.21 | 197.90 |
| TOTAL | 71334.81 | 32058.33 | 84182.59 | 35270.53 | 102253.41 | 40749.66 |

**State-wise details of export are not centrally maintained.**

(c) The Minimum Export Price for coir and coir products had been withdrawn with effect from 9th April, 2002.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to reintroduce Minimum Export Price on coir and coir products.

(e) Does not arise.

(0 The decision to abolish Minimum Export Price (MEP) was taken in the larger interest of the coir industry after due consideration of various issues involved.

(g) Details showing total workers associated with the coir industry, State-wise are as under:

| Sl.No. | Name of State | Employment |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Kerala | 4,33,000 |
| 2. | Tamil Nadu | 72,840 |
| 3. | Karnataka | 18,000 |
| 4. | Andhra Pradesh | 41,400 |
| 5. | Onssa | 6,520 |
| 6. | Other states | 14,900 |
| | TOTAL: | 5,86,660 |

**Coverage of mobile telephone services in Uttaranchal**

907. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that coverage of the mobile telephone service is very limited and their standard is very poor in most of the districts of Uttaranchal State;

(b) whether there is any proposal to install new towers to improve the standard of mobile telephone services and to expand their coverage in the State; and

(c) if so, the number of towers to be installed in the State location district-wise and by when, this work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Sir, Cellular Mobile Service Providers have already covered all the District Headquarters of Uttaranchal State and they are providing mobile telephone service in the area covered by them within standards set by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir Cellular Mobile Operators have planned to cover additional towns within the current financial year. The coverage of more and more area is a continuous process and it depends upon the commercial viability. As such exact number of additional towers to be installed in the Uttaranchal State cannot be specified at this stage.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.